

OFFICER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

KEY DECISION NO

DIRECTORATE: REGENERATION AND PLACE

WARDS AFFECTED: WALLASEY

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO CONSULT ON THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AT PART OF WALLACRE PLAYING FIELDS FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

1.0 DECISION:

- 1.1 That the intended appropriation for educational purposes of the land edged red on the plan annexed to this report being part of Wallacre Playing Fields (“the Site”) be advertised under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 as shown in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 That if no objections are received following the advertisement requirements of section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Site is appropriated for educational use.
- 1.3 That any objections to appropriation that are received are considered by the Assistant Director for Asset Management and any determination to appropriate the site from Public Open Space to Educational purposes be further considered by the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The school rebuilding programme funded by the Department for Education carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at schools and sixth form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition. Bids were submitted for four Wirral schools to be included in this programme and it has been confirmed that Riverside and Mosslands are included in the programme.
- 2.2 It was initially envisaged that Mosslands School would receive funding for limited block replacement. However, following detailed site investigations and technical assessment it has been confirmed that the whole school building will be replaced in line with the requirements of Building Bulletin 103: Areas Guidelines for Mainstream Schools.
- 2.3 The current site of Mosslands School is currently restricted with external field sports being played on the adjacent Wallacre playing field. In order to enable the construction of a new school and sports facilities, initial technical appraisals have indicated that including a portion of the Wallacre playing field within the schools boundary would allow better massing of buildings which would in turn create more external sports and recreational space and importantly significantly reduce disruption to curriculum whilst the new build is taking place. Public access to playing fields

operated by the Council will be able to be maintained during the construction phase and also after the construction phase has been completed.

- 2.4 Extending the school boundary to incorporate the site and appropriating it for educational use is considered as being in the public interests of the Council as a whole to meet future educational demands and the needs of the Community due to the improved sports facilities that will be provided at the location in addition to those retained at the Wallacre Playing fields after construction of the new school.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

- 3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 4.1 The officers involved in the commissioning of this project have no interests to declare.
- 4.2 The Director of Regeneration and Place as the nominated officer for this decision has no interest to declare.



Signed:

Officer: David Hughes

Title: Director of Regeneration and Place

Date: July 2023

Contact Officer: Jeannette Royle
Date: 5th July 2023

Date of Publication:
Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: